107TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 1759

To provide a short-term enhanced safety net for Americans losing their jobs and to provide our Nation's economy with a necessary boost.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 3, 2001

Mr. Kerry introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To provide a short-term enhanced safety net for Americans losing their jobs and to provide our Nation's economy with a necessary boost.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Putting Americans
- 5 First Act".

6 TITLE I—TEMPORARY UNEM-

7 PLOYMENT COMPENSATION

- 8 SEC. 101. FEDERAL-STATE AGREEMENTS.
- 9 (a) In General.—Any State which desires to do so
- 10 may enter into and participate in an agreement under this

1	title with the Secretary of Labor (hereinafter in this title
2	referred to as the "Secretary"). Any State which is a party
3	to an agreement under this title may, upon providing 30
4	days' written notice to the Secretary, terminate such
5	agreement.
6	(b) Provisions of Agreement.—
7	(1) In general.—Any agreement under sub-
8	section (a) shall provide that the State agency of the
9	State will make—
10	(A) payments of regular compensation to
11	individuals in amounts and to the extent that
12	such payments would be determined if the State
13	law were applied with the modifications de-
14	scribed in paragraph (2), and
15	(B) payments of temporary supplemental
16	unemployment compensation to individuals
17	who—
18	(i) have—
19	(I) exhausted all rights to regular
20	compensation under the State law; or
21	(II) received 26 weeks of regular
22	compensation under the State law;
23	(ii) do not have any rights to regular
24	compensation under the State law of any
25	other State; and

1	(iii) are not receiving compensation
2	under the unemployment compensation law
3	of Canada.
4	(2) Modifications described.—The modi-
5	fications described in this paragraph are as follows:
6	(A) An individual shall be eligible for reg-
7	ular compensation if the individual would be so
8	eligible, determined by applying—
9	(i) the base period that would other-
10	wise apply under the State law if this title
11	had not been enacted, or
12	(ii) a base period ending at the close
13	of the calendar quarter most recently com-
14	pleted before the date of the individual's
15	application for benefits,
16	whichever results in the greater amount.
17	(B) An individual shall not be denied reg-
18	ular compensation under the State law's provi-
19	sions relating to availability for work, active
20	search for work, or refusal to accept work, sole-
21	ly by virtue of the fact that such individual is
22	seeking, or available for, only part-time (and
23	not full-time) work.
24	(C)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the amount of
25	regular compensation (including dependents' al-

1	lowances) payable for any week shall be equal
2	to the amount determined under the State law
3	(before the application of this subparagraph),
4	plus an additional—
5	(I) 25 percent, or
6	(II) \$65,
7	whichever is greater.
8	(ii) In no event may the total amount de-
9	termined under clause (i) with respect to any
10	individual exceed the average weekly insured
11	wages of that individual in that calendar quar-
12	ter of the base period in which such individual's
13	insured wages were the highest (or one such
14	quarter if his wages were the same for more
15	than one such quarter).
16	(c) Nonreduction Rule.—Under the agreement,
17	subsection $(b)(2)(C)$ shall not apply (or shall cease to
18	apply) with respect to a State upon a determination by
19	the Secretary that the method governing the computation
20	of regular compensation under the State law of that State
21	has been modified in a way such that—
22	(1) the average weekly amount of regular com-
23	pensation which will be payable during the period of
24	the agreement (determined disregarding the modi-

- fications described in subsection (b)(2)) will be less than
- 3 (2) the average weekly amount of regular com-4 pensation which would otherwise have been payable 5 during such period under the State law, as in effect 6 on September 11, 2001.

(d) Coordination Rules.—

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- (1) REGULAR COMPENSATION PAYABLE UNDER A FEDERAL LAW.—The modifications described in subsection (b)(2) shall also apply in determining the amount of benefits payable under any Federal law to the extent that those benefits are determined by reference to regular compensation payable under the State law of the State involved.
- (2) TSUC TO SERVE AS SECOND-TIER BENE-FITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither regular compensation, extended compensation, nor additional compensation under any Federal or State law shall be payable to any individual for any week for which temporary supplemental unemployment compensation is payable to such individual.
- (3) TREATMENT OF OTHER UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—After the date on which a State enters into an agreement under this title, any regular compensation in excess of 26 weeks, any ex-

- tended compensation, and any additional compensa-
- 2 tion under any Federal or State law shall be payable
- 3 to an individual in accordance with the State law
- 4 after such individual has exhausted any rights to
- 5 temporary supplemental unemployment compensa-
- 6 tion under the agreement.
- 7 (e) Exhaustion of Benefits.—For purposes of
- 8 subsection (b)(1)(B)(i)(I), an individual shall be consid-
- 9 ered to have exhausted such individual's rights to regular
- 10 compensation under a State law when—
- 11 (1) no payments of regular compensation can
- be made under such law because such individual has
- received all regular compensation available to such
- individual based on employment or wages during
- such individual's base period, or
- 16 (2) such individual's rights to such compensa-
- tion have been terminated by reason of the expira-
- tion of the benefit year with respect to which such
- rights existed.
- 20 (f) Weekly Benefit Amount, Terms and Condi-
- 21 Tions, ETC. Relating to TSUC.—For purposes of any
- 22 agreement under this title—
- 23 (1) the amount of temporary supplemental un-
- employment compensation which shall be payable to
- an individual for any week of total unemployment

- shall be equal to the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable to such individual under the State law for a week for total unemployment during such individual's benefit year,
 - (2) the terms and conditions of the State law which apply to claims for regular compensation and to the payment thereof shall apply to claims for temporary supplemental unemployment compensation and the payment thereof, except where inconsistent with the provisions of this title or with the regulations or operating instructions of the Secretary promulgated to carry out this title, and
 - (3) the maximum amount of temporary supplemental unemployment compensation payable to any individual for whom a temporary supplemental unemployment compensation account is established under section 103 shall not exceed the amount established in such account for such individual.

20 SEC. 103. TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT 21 COMPENSATION ACCOUNT.

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any agreement under this title 23 shall provide that the State will establish, for each eligible 24 individual who files an application for temporary supple-

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mental unemployment compensation, a temporary supplemental unemployment compensation account. 3 (b) Amount in Account.— 4 (1) In General.—The amount established in 5 an account under subsection (a) shall be equal to the 6 product obtained by multiplying an individual's 7 weekly benefit amount by the applicable factor under 8 paragraph (3). 9 (2) Weekly benefit amount.—For purposes 10 of this subsection, an individual's weekly benefit 11 amount for any week is the amount of regular com-12 pensation (including dependents' allowances) under 13 the State law payable to such individual for a week 14 of total unemployment in such individual's benefit 15 year. 16 (3) Applicable factor.— 17 (A) GENERAL RULE.—The applicable fac-18 tor under this paragraph is 13, unless the indi-19 vidual's benefit year begins or ends during a pe-20 riod of high unemployment within such individ-21 ual's State, in which case the applicable factor 22 is 26. 23 (B) Period of high unemployment.—

For purposes of this paragraph, a period of

high unemployment within a State shall begin

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and end, if at all, in a way (to be set forth
2 in the State's agreement under this title) simi
3 lar to the way in which an extended benefit pe
4 riod would under section 203 of the Federal
5 State Extended Unemployment Compensation
6 Act of 1970, subject to the following:
7 (i) To determine if there is a Stat
8 "on" or "off" indicator, apply section
9 203(f) of such Act, but—
10 (I) substitute "5 percent" fo
11 "6.5 percent" in paragraph (1)(A)(i
thereof, and
13 (II) disregard paragraph
14 (1)(A)(ii) thereof and the last sen
tence of paragraph (1) thereof.
16 (ii) To determine the beginning and
ending dates of a period of high unemploy
ment within a State, apply section 203(a
and (b) of such Act, except that—
20 (I) in applying such section
21 203(a), deem paragraphs (1) and (2
thereof to be amended by striking
23 "the third week after", and
24 (II) in applying such section
25 203(b), deem paragraph (1)(A) there

of amended by striking "thirteen" and inserting "twenty-six" and paragraph (1)(B) thereof amended by striking "fourteenth" and inserting "twenty-seventh".

- (4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of any computation under paragraph (1) (and any determination of amount under section 101(f)(1)), the modification described in section 101(b)(2)(C) (relating to increased benefits) shall be deemed to have been in effect with respect to the entirety of the benefit year involved.
- 13 (c) Eligibility Period.—An individual whose applicable factor under subsection (b)(3) is 26 shall be eligi-14 15 ble for temporary supplemental unemployment compensation for each week of total unemployment in his benefit 16 year which begins in the State's period of high unemploy-17 18 ment and, if his benefit year ends within such period, any 19 such weeks thereafter which begin in such period of high 20 unemployment, not to exceed a total of 26 weeks.

21 SEC. 104. PAYMENTS TO STATES HAVING AGREEMENTS

22 UNDER THIS TITLE.

23 (a) GENERAL RULE.—There shall be paid to each 24 State which has entered into an agreement under this title 25 an amount equal to—

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1 (1) 100 percent of any regular compensation 2 made payable to individuals by such State by virtue 3 of the modifications which are described in section 4 101(b)(2) and deemed to be in effect with respect to 5 such State pursuant to section 101(b)(1)(A), 6 (2) 100 percent of any regular compensation— 7 (A) which is paid to individuals by such 8 State by reason of the fact that its State law 9 contains provisions comparable to the modifica-10 tions described in section 101(b)(2)(A)-(B), but 11 only 12 (B) to the extent that those amounts 13 would, if such amounts were instead payable by 14 virtue of the State law's being deemed to be so 15 modified pursuant to section 101(b)(1)(A), have 16 been reimbursable under paragraph (1), and 17 (3) 100 percent of the temporary supplemental 18 unemployment compensation paid to individuals by 19 the State pursuant to such agreement. 20 (b) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—Sums under sub-21 section (a) payable to any State by reason of such State having an agreement under this title shall be payable, ei-23 ther in advance or by way of reimbursement (as may be determined by the Secretary), in such amounts as the Sec-

retary estimates the State will be entitled to receive under

- 1 this title for each calendar month, reduced or increased,
- 2 as the case may be, by any amount by which the Secretary
- 3 finds that the Secretary's estimates for any prior calendar
- 4 month were greater or less than the amounts which should
- 5 have been paid to the State. Such estimates may be made
- 6 on the basis of such statistical, sampling, or other method
- 7 as may be agreed upon by the Secretary and the State
- 8 agency of the State involved.
- 9 (c) Administrative Expenses, Etc.—There is
- 10 hereby appropriated out of the employment security ad-
- 11 ministration account of the Unemployment Trust Fund
- 12 (as established by section 901(a) of the Social Security
- 13 Act) \$500,000,000 to reimburse States for the costs of
- 14 the administration of agreements under this title (includ-
- 15 ing any improvements in technology in connection there-
- 16 with) and to provide reemployment services to unemploy-
- 17 ment compensation claimants in States having agreements
- 18 under this title. Each State's share of the amount appro-
- 19 priated by the preceding sentence shall be determined by
- 20 the Secretary according to the factors described in section
- 21 302(a) of the Social Security Act and certified by the Sec-
- 22 retary to the Secretary of the Treasury.
- 23 SEC. 105. FINANCING PROVISIONS.
- 24 (a) In General.—Funds in the extended unemploy-
- 25 ment compensation account (as established by section

- 1 905(a) of the Social Security Act), and the Federal unem-
- 2 ployment account (as established by section 904(g) of the
- 3 Social Security Act), of the Unemployment Trust Fund
- 4 shall be used, in accordance with subsection (b), for the
- 5 making of payments (described in section 103(a)) to
- 6 States having agreements entered into under this title.
- 7 (b) Certification.—The Secretary shall from time
- 8 to time certify to the Secretary of the Treasury for pay-
- 9 ment to each State the sums described in section 103(a)
- 10 which are payable to such State under this title. The Sec-
- 11 retary of the Treasury, prior to audit or settlement by the
- 12 General Accounting Office, shall make payments to the
- 13 State in accordance with such certification by transfers
- 14 from the extended unemployment compensation account
- 15 (or, to the extent that there are insufficient funds in that
- 16 account, from the Federal unemployment account) to the
- 17 account of such State in the Unemployment Trust Fund.
- 18 SEC. 106. FRAUD AND OVERPAYMENTS.
- 19 (a) IN GENERAL.—If an individual knowingly has
- 20 made, or caused to be made by another, a false statement
- 21 or representation of a material fact, or knowingly has
- 22 failed, or caused another to fail, to disclose a material fact,
- 23 and as a result of such false statement or representation
- 24 or of such nondisclosure such individual has received any
- 25 regular compensation or temporary supplemental unem-

1	ployment compensation under this title to which he was
2	not entitled, such individual—
3	(1) shall be ineligible for any further benefits
4	under this title in accordance with the provisions of
5	the applicable State unemployment compensation
6	law relating to fraud in connection with a claim for
7	unemployment compensation, and
8	(2) shall be subject to prosecution under section
9	1001 of title 18, United States Code.
10	(b) Repayment.—In the case of individuals who
11	have received any regular compensation or temporary sup-
12	plemental unemployment compensation under this title to
13	which they were not entitled, the State shall require such
14	individuals to repay those benefits to the State agency,
15	except that the State agency may waive such repayment
16	if it determines that—
17	(1) the payment of such benefits was without
18	fault on the part of any such individual, and
19	(2) such repayment would be contrary to equity
20	and good conscience.
21	(c) Recovery by State Agency.—
22	(1) In General.—The State agency may re-
23	cover the amount to be repaid, or any part thereof,
24	by deductions from any regular compensation or
25	temporary supplemental unemployment compensa-

tion payable to such individual under this title or from any unemployment compensation payable to such individual under any Federal unemployment compensation law administered by the State agency or under any other Federal law administered by the State agency which provides for the payment of any assistance or allowance with respect to any week of unemployment, during the 3-year period after the date such individuals received the payment of the regular compensation or temporary supplemental unemployment compensation to which they were not entitled, except that no single deduction may exceed 50 percent of the weekly benefit amount from which such deduction is made.

- (2) OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING.—No repayment shall be required, and no deduction shall be made, until a determination has been made, notice thereof and an opportunity for a fair hearing has been given to the individual, and the determination has become final.
- 21 (d) Review.—Any determination by a State agency 22 under this section shall be subject to review in the same 23 manner and to the same extent as determinations under 24 the State unemployment compensation law, and only in 25 that manner and to that extent.

1 SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS.

2	For purposes of this title:
3	(1) In general.—The terms "compensation",
4	"regular compensation", "extended compensation",
5	"additional compensation", "benefit year", "base pe-
6	riod", "State", "State agency", "State law", and
7	"week" have the respective meanings given such
8	terms under section 205 of the Federal-State Ex-
9	tended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970,
10	subject to paragraph (2).
11	(2) State law and regular compensa-
12	TION.—In the case of a State entering into an
13	agreement under this title—
14	(A) "State law" shall be considered to
15	refer to the State law of such State, applied in
16	conformance with the modifications described in
17	section 101(b)(2), subject to section 101(c),
18	and
19	(B) "regular compensation" shall be con-
20	sidered to refer to such compensation, deter-
21	mined under its State law (applied in the man-
22	ner described in subparagraph (A)),
23	except as otherwise provided or where the context
24	clearly indicates otherwise.

1 SEC. 108. APPLICABILITY.

2	(a) In General.—An agreement entered into under
3	this title shall apply to weeks of unemployment—
4	(1) beginning after the date on which such
5	agreement is entered into, and
6	(2) ending before January 1, 2003.
7	(b) Specific Rules.—
8	(1) In general.—Under such an agreement,
9	the following rules shall apply:
10	(A) ALTERNATIVE BASE PERIODS.—
11	(i) APPLICABILITY.—The modification
12	described in section 702(b)(2)(A) (relating
13	to alternative base periods) shall not apply
14	except in the case of initial claims filed on
15	or after the first day of the week that in-
16	cludes September 11, 2001.
17	(ii) Nonretroactivity.—The weekly
18	benefit amount payable with respect to
19	weeks of regular compensation and tem-
20	porary supplemental unemployment com-
21	pensation shall not be recalculated as a re-
22	sult of the application of the modification
23	described in clause (i) with respect to an
24	individual who was receiving any unem-
25	ployment compensation as of the date on

1	which the State enters into such an agree-
2	ment.
3	(B) Part-time employment and in-
4	CREASED BENEFITS.—The modifications de-
5	scribed in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section
6	702(b)(2) (relating to part-time employment
7	and increased benefits, respectively) shall apply
8	to weeks of unemployment described in sub-
9	section (a), regardless of the date on which an
10	individual's initial claim for benefits is filed.
11	(C) ELIGIBILITY FOR TSUC.—The pay-
12	ments described in section 702(b)(1)(B) (relat-
13	ing to temporary supplemental unemployment
14	compensation) shall not apply except in the case
15	of individuals who have—
16	(i) exhausted all rights to regular
17	compensation under the State law (as de-
18	scribed in clause (i)(I) of such section) on
19	or after the first day of the week that in-
20	cludes September 11, 2001; or
21	(ii) received 26 weeks of regular com-
22	pensation under the State law as of such
23	date (as described in clause (i)(II) of such
24	section).
25	(2) Reapplication process.—

- 1 (A) ALTERNATIVE BASE PERIODS.—In the 2 case of an individual who filed an initial claim 3 for regular compensation on or after the first 4 day of the week that includes September 11, 2001, and before the date that the State en-6 tered into an agreement under subsection (a)(1) 7 that was denied as a result of the application 8 of the base period that applied under the State 9 law prior to the date on which the State entered 10 into the such agreement, such individual— 11 (i) may refile a claim for regular com-12 pensation based on the modification de-13 scribed in section 702(b)(2)(A) (relating to
 - (1) may refile a claim for regular compensation based on the modification described in section 702(b)(2)(A) (relating to alternative base periods) on or after the date on which the State enters into such agreement and before the date on which such agreement terminates; and
 - (ii) if eligible, shall be entitled to such compensation only for weeks of unemployment described in subsection (a) beginning on or after the date on which the individual files such claim.
 - (B) PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT.—In the case of an individual who before the date that the State entered into an agreement under sub-

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section (a)(1) was denied regular compensation
under the State law's provisions relating to
availability for work, active search for work, or
refusal to accept work, solely by virtue of the
fact that such individual is seeking, or available
for, only part-time (and not full-time) work,
such individual—

- (i) may refile a claim for regular compensation based on the modification described in section 702(b)(2)(B) (relating to part-time employment) on or after the date on which the State enters into the agreement under subsection (a)(1) and before the date on which such agreement terminates; and
- (ii) if eligible, shall be entitled to such compensation only for weeks of unemployment described in subsection (a) beginning on or after the date on which the individual files such claim.
- (3) No retroactive payments for weeks Prior to agreement.—No amounts shall be payable to an individual under an agreement entered into under this title for any week of unemployment

1	prior to the week beginning after the date on which
2	such agreement is entered into.
3	TITLE II—HEALTH INSURANCE
4	COVERAGE OPTIONS FOR RE-
5	CENTLY UNEMPLOYED INDI-
6	VIDUALS AND THEIR FAMI-
7	LIES
8	SEC. 201. PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA CONTINU-
9	ATION COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND
10	THEIR FAMILIES.
11	(a) Establishment.—
12	(1) In general.—Not later than 30 days after
13	the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
14	the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of
15	Labor, shall establish a program under which 75
16	percent of the premium for COBRA continuation
17	coverage shall be provided for an individual who—
18	(A) at any time during the period that be-
19	gins on September 11, 2001, and ends on De-
20	cember 31, 2002, is separated from employ-
21	ment; and
22	(B) is eligible for, and has elected coverage
23	under, COBRA continuation coverage.
24	(2) Inclusion of Certain Individuals.—For
25	purposes of paragraph (1), the spouse child or

other individual who was an insured under health insurance coverage of an individual who was killed as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes on September 11, 2001, or as a result of any other terrorist-related event occurring during the period described in that paragraph, and who is eligible for, and has elected coverage under, COBRA continuation coverage shall be eligible for premium assistance under the program established under this section.

(3) State option to elect administration of program.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may elect to administer the premium assistance program established under this section if the State submits to the Secretary of the Treasury, not later than January 1, 2002, a plan that describes how the State will administer such program on behalf of the individuals described in paragraph (1) or (2) who reside in the State beginning on that date.

(B) STATE ENTITLEMENT.—In the case of a State that submits a plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to each such State an amount for each

1	quarter equal to the total amount of premium
2	subsidies provided in that quarter on behalf of
3	such individuals.
4	(4) Immediate implementation.—The pro-
5	gram established under this section shall be imple-
6	mented without regard to whether or not final regu-
7	lations to carry out such program have been promul-
8	gated by the date described in paragraph (1).
9	(b) Limitation of Period of Premium Assist-
10	ANCE.—
11	(1) In general.—Premium assistance pro-
12	vided in accordance with this section shall end with
13	respect to an individual on the earlier of—
14	(A) the date the individual is no longer
15	covered under COBRA continuation coverage;
16	or
17	(B) 12 months after the date the indi-
18	vidual is first enrolled in the premium assist-
19	ance program established under this section.
20	(2) No assistance after december 31,
21	2002.—No premium assistance (including payment
22	for such assistance) may be provided under this sec-
23	tion after December 31, 2002.
24	(c) Payment Arrangements; Crediting of As-
25	SISTANCE.—

(1) Provision of Assistance.—

- (A) In General.—Premium assistance shall be provided under the program established under this section through direct payment arrangements with a group health plan (including a multiemployer plan), an issuer of health insurance coverage, an administrator, or an employer as appropriate with respect to the individual provided such assistance.
- (B) Additional option for state-run program.—In the case of a State that elects to administer the program established under this section, such assistance may be provided through the State public employment office or other agency responsible for administering the State unemployment compensation program.
- (2) Premiums payable by individual reduced by amount of assistance.—Premium assistance provided under this section shall be credited by the group health plan, issuer of health insurance coverage, or an administrator against the premium otherwise owed by the individual involved for COBRA continuation coverage.

- 1 (d) Program Requirements.—Premium assistance
- 2 shall be provided under the program established under this
- 3 section consistent with the following:
- 4 (1) All qualifying individuals may
- 5 APPLY.—All individuals described in paragraph (1)
- or (2) of subsection (a) may apply for such assist-
- 7 ance at any time during the period described in sub-
- 8 section (a)(1)(A).
- 9 (2) Selection on first-come, first-served
- 10 Basis.—Such assistance shall be provided to such
- individuals who apply for the assistance in the order
- in which they apply.
- 13 (e) Limitation on Entitlement.—Nothing in this
- 14 section shall be construed as establishing any entitlement
- 15 of individuals described in paragraph (1) or (2) of sub-
- 16 section (a) to premium assistance under this section.
- 17 (f) Disregard of Subsidies for Purposes of
- 18 Federal and State Programs.—Notwithstanding any
- 19 other provision of law, any premium assistance provided
- 20 to, or on behalf of, an individual under this section, shall
- 21 not be considered income or resources in determining eligi-
- 22 bility for, or the amount of assistance or benefits provided
- 23 under, any other Federal public benefit or State or local
- 24 public benefit.
- 25 (g) Change in COBRA Notice.—

(1) General Notice.—

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(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of notices provided under section 4980B(f)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 2206 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-6), section 606 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1166), or section 8905a(f)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code, with respect to individuals who, during the period described in subsection (a)(1)(A), become entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage, such notices shall include an additional notification to the recipient of the availability of premium assistance for such coverage under this section and for temporary medicaid assistance under section 203 for the remaining portion of COBRA continuation premiums.

(B) ALTERNATIVE NOTICE.—In the case of COBRA continuation coverage to which the notice provision under such sections does not apply, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall, in coordination with administrators of the group health plans (or other entities) that provide or

1	administer the COBRA continuation coverage
2	involved, assure the provision of such notice.
3	(C) FORM.—The requirement of the addi-
4	tional notification under this paragraph may be
5	met by amendment of existing notice forms or
6	by inclusion of a separate document with the
7	notice otherwise required.
8	(2) Specific requirements.—Each additional
9	notification under paragraph (1) shall include—
10	(A) the forms necessary for establishing
11	eligibility and enrollment in the premium assist-
12	ance program established under this section in
13	connection with the COBRA continuation cov-
14	erage with respect to individuals described in
15	paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a);
16	(B) the name, address, and telephone num-
17	ber necessary to contact the administrator and
18	any other person maintaining relevant informa-
19	tion in connection with the premium assistance;
20	and
21	(C) the following statement displayed in a
22	prominent manner:
23	"You may be eligible to receive assistance with pay-
24	ment of 75 percent of your COBRA continuation coverage
25	premiums and with temporary medicaid coverage for the

- 1 remaining premium portion for a duration of not to exceed2 12 months.".
- 3 (3) Notice relating to retroactive cov-ERAGE.—In the case of such notices previously 5 transmitted before the date of enactment of this Act 6 in the case of an individual described in paragraph 7 (1) who has elected (or is still eligible to elect) 8 COBRA continuation coverage as of the date of en-9 actment of this Act, the administrator of the group 10 health plan (or other entity) involved or the Sec-11 retary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Sec-12 retary of Labor, (in the case described in the para-13 graph (1)(B)) shall provide (within 60 days after the 14 date of enactment of this Act) for the additional no-15 tification required to be provided under paragraph (1).16
 - (4) Model Notices.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe models for the additional notification required under this subsection.
- 22 (h) Reports.—Beginning on January 1, 2002, and 23 every 3 months thereafter until January 1, 2003, the Sec-24 retary of the Treasury shall submit a report to Congress

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1	regarding the premium assistance program established
2	under this section that includes the following:
3	(1) The status of the implementation of the
4	program.
5	(2) The number of individuals provided assist-
6	ance under the program as of the date of the report.
7	(3) The average dollar amount (monthly and
8	annually) of the premium assistance provided under
9	the program.
10	(4) The number and identification of the States
11	that have elected to administer the program.
12	(5) The total amount of expenditures incurred
13	(with administrative expenditures noted separately)
14	under the program as of the date of the report.
15	(i) Appropriation.—
16	(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any funds in the
17	Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
18	priated to carry out this section, such sums as are
19	necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003.
20	(2) Obligation of funds.—This section con-
21	stitutes budget authority in advance of appropria-
22	tions Acts and represents the obligation of the Fed-
23	eral Government to provide for the payment of pre-

mium assistance under this section.

1	(j) Sunset.—No premium assistance (including pay-
2	ment for such assistance) may be provided under this sec-
3	tion after December 31, 2002.
4	SEC. 202. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY MED-
5	ICAID COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN UNINSURED
6	INDIVIDUALS.
7	(a) State Option.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
8	vision of law, a State may elect to provide under its med-
9	icaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act
10	medical assistance in the case of an individual—
11	(1) who at any time during the period that be-
12	gins on September 11, 2001, and ends on December
13	31, 2002, is separated from employment;
14	(2) who is not eligible for COBRA continuation
15	coverage;
16	(3) who is uninsured; and
17	(4) whose assets, resources, and earned or un-
18	earned income (or both) do not exceed such limita-
19	tions (if any) as the State may establish.
20	(b) Limitation of Period of Coverage.—Medical
21	assistance provided in accordance with this section shall
22	end with respect to an individual on the earlier of—
23	(1) the date the individual is no longer unin-
24	sured: or

1 (2) subject to subsection (c)(4), 12 months 2 after the date the individual first receives such as-3 sistance. 4 (c) Special Rules.—In the case of medical assist-5 ance provided under this section— 6 (1) the Federal medical assistance percentage 7 under section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42) 8 U.S.C. 1396d(b)) shall be the enhanced FMAP (as 9 defined in section 2105(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 10 1397ee(b))); 11 (2) a State may elect to apply any income, 12 asset, or resource limitation permitted under the 13 State medicaid plan or under title XIX of such Act; 14 (3) the provisions of section 1916(g) of the So-15 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 13960) shall apply to 16 the provision of such assistance in the same manner 17 as the provisions of such section apply with respect 18 to individuals provided medical assistance only under 19 (XVI) of subclause (XV)or section 20 ofsuch U.S.C. 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)Act (42)21 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii); 22 (4) a State may elect to provide such assistance 23 in accordance with section 1902(a)(34) of the Social

Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(34)) and any as-

sistance provided with respect to a month described

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- in that section shall not be included in the determination of the 12-month period under subsection (b)(2);
 - (5) a State may elect to make eligible for such medical assistance a dependent spouse or children of an individual eligible for medical assistance under subsection (a), if such spouse or children are uninsured;
 - (6) individuals eligible for medical assistance under this section shall be deemed to be described in the list of individuals described in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of section 1905(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(a));
 - (7) a State may elect to provide such medical assistance without regard to any limitation under sections 401(a), 402(b), 403, and 421 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(a), 1612(b), 1613, and 1631) and no debt shall accrue under an affidavit of support against any sponsor of an individual who is an alien who is provided such assistance, and the cost of such assistance shall not be considered as an unreimbursed cost; and
 - (8) the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not count, for purposes of section 1108(f)

1	of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308(f)), such
2	amount of payments under this section as bears a
3	reasonable relationship to the average national pro-
4	portion of payments made under this section for the
5	50 States and the District of Columbia to the pay-
6	ments otherwise made under title XIX for such
7	States and District.
8	(d) Sunset.—No medical assistance may be provided
9	under this section after December 31, 2002.
10	SEC. 203. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY COV-
11	ERAGE UNDER MEDICAID FOR THE UNSUB-
12	SIDIZED PORTION OF COBRA CONTINUATION
13	PREMIUMS.
14	(a) State Option.—
15	(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
16	provision of law, a State may elect to provide under
17	its medicaid program under title XIX of the Social
18	Security Act medical assistance in the form of pay-
19	ment for the portion of the premium for COBRA
20	continuation coverage for which an individual does
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	not receive a subsidy under the premium assistance
22	not receive a subsidy under the premium assistance program established under section 201 in the case of
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	program established under section 201 in the case of

1	cember 31, 2002, is separated from employ-
2	ment;
3	(B) who is eligible for, and has elected cov-
4	erage under, COBRA continuation coverage;
5	(C) who is receiving premium assistance
6	under the program established under section
7	201; and
8	(D) whose family income does not exceed
9	200 percent of the poverty line.
10	(2) Inclusion of Certain Individuals.—For
11	purposes of paragraph (1), the spouse, child, or
12	other individual who was an insured under health in-
13	surance coverage of an individual who was killed as
14	a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes on
15	September 11, 2001, or as a result of any other ter-
16	rorist-related event occurring during the period de-
17	scribed in that paragraph, and who satisfies the re-
18	quirements of subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of
19	paragraph (1) shall be eligible for medical assistance
20	under this section.
21	(b) Limitation of Period of Coverage.—Medical
22	assistance provided in accordance with this section shall
23	end with respect to an individual on the earlier of—
24	(1) the date the individual is no longer covered
25	under CORRA continuation coveres. or

1	(2) 12 months after the date the individual first
2	receives such assistance under this section.
3	(c) Special Rules.—In the case of medical assist-
4	ance provided under this section—
5	(1) such assistance may be provided without re-
6	gard to—
7	(A) whether the State otherwise has elect-
8	ed to make medical assistance available for
9	COBRA premiums under section
10	1902(a)(10)(F) of the Social Security Act (42
11	U.S.C. $1396a(a)(10)(F)$; or
12	(B) the conditions otherwise imposed for
13	the provision of medical assistance for such
14	COBRA premiums under clause (XII) of the
15	matter following section 1902(a)(10)(G) of the
16	Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
17	1396a(a)(10)(G)), or paragraphs $(1)(B),$
18	(1)(C), $(1)(D)$, and (4) of section $1902(u)$ of
19	such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(u)); and
20	(2) paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (7), and (8)
21	of subsection (c) of section 202 apply to such assist-
22	ance in the same manner as such paragraphs apply
23	to the provision of medical assistance under that sec-
24	tion.

1	(d) Sunset.—No medical assistance may be provided
2	under this section after December 31, 2002.
3	SEC. 204. TEMPORARY INCREASES OF MEDICAID FMAP FOR
4	FISCAL YEAR 2002.
5	(a) Permitting Maintenance of Fiscal Year
6	2001 FMAP.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
7	law, but subject to subsection (d), if the FMAP deter-
8	mined without regard to this section for a State for fiscal
9	year 2002 is less than the FMAP as so determined for
10	fiscal year 2001, the FMAP for the State for fiscal year
11	2001 shall be substituted for the State's FMAP for fiscal
12	year 2002, before the application of this section.
13	(b) General 1.50 Percentage Points In-
14	CREASE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, but
15	subject to subsections (e) and (f), for each State for each
16	calendar quarter in fiscal year 2002, the FMAP (taking
17	into account the application of subsection (a)) shall be in-
18	creased by 1.50 percentage points.
19	(c) Further Increase for States With High
20	UNEMPLOYMENT RATES.—
21	(1) In general.—Notwithstanding any other
22	provision of law, but subject to subsections (e) and
23	(f), the FMAP for a high unemployment State for
24	a calendar quarter in fiscal year 2002 (and any sub-
25	sequent calendar quarter in such fiscal year regard-

- less of whether the State continues to be a high unemployment State for a calendar quarter in such fiscal year) shall be increased (after the application of
- subsections (a) and (b)) by 1.50 percentage points.
- (2) High unemployment state.—For pur-6 poses of this subsection, a State is a high unemploy-7 ment State for a calendar quarter if, for any 3 con-8 secutive months beginning on or after June 2001 9 and ending with the second month before the begin-10 ning of the calendar quarter, the State has an unem-11 ployment rate that exceeds the national average un-12 employment rate. Such unemployment rates for such 13 months shall be determined based on publications of 14 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of
- 16 (d) 1-Year Increase in Cap on Medicaid Pay-
- 17 MENTS TO TERRITORIES.—Notwithstanding any other
- 18 provision of law, with respect to fiscal year 2002, the
- 19 amounts otherwise determined for Puerto Rico, the Virgin
- 20 Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Amer-
- 21 ican Samoa under section 1108 of the Social Security Act
- 22 (42 U.S.C. 1308) shall each be increased by an amount
- 23 equal to 3.093 percentage points of such amounts.
- 24 (e) Scope of Application.—The increases in the
- 25 FMAP for a State under this section shall apply only for

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Labor.

1	purposes of title XIX of the Social Security Act and shall
2	not apply with respect to—
3	(1) disproportionate share hospital payments
4	described in section 1923 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
5	1396r-4); and
6	(2) payments under titles IV and XXI of such
7	Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq. and 1397aa et seq.).
8	(f) State Eligibility.—A State is eligible for an
9	increase in its FMAP under subsection (b) or (c) only if
10	the eligibility under its State plan under title XIX of the
11	Social Security Act (including any waiver under such title
12	or under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315)) is
13	no more restrictive than the eligibility under such plan (or
14	waiver) as in effect on October 1, 2001.
15	SEC. 205. DEFINITIONS.
16	In this title:
17	(1) Administrator.—The term "adminis-
18	trator" has the meaning given that term in section
19	3(16)(A) of the Employee Retirement Income Secu-
20	rity Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(16)(A)).
21	(2) COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE.—
22	(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "COBRA
23	continuation coverage" means coverage under a
24	group health plan provided by an employer pur-
25	suant to title XXII of the Public Health Service

- Act, section 4980B of the Internal Revenue
 Code of 1986, part 6 of subtitle B of title I of
 the Employee Retirement Income Security Act
 of 1974, or section 8905a of title 5, United
 States Code.
 - (B) APPLICATION TO EMPLOYERS IN STATES REQUIRING SUCH COVERAGE.—Such term includes such coverage provided by an employer in a State that has enacted a law that requires the employer to provide such coverage even though the employer would not otherwise be required to provide such coverage under the provisions of law referred to in subparagraph (A).
 - (3) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term "covered employee" has the meaning given that term in section 607(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1167(2)).
 - (4) FEDERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT.—The term "Federal public benefit" has the meaning given that term in section 401(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(c)).
- (5) FMAP.—The term "FMAP" means the
 Federal medical assistance percentage, as defined in

- section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)).
- 6) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term "group health plan" has the meaning given that term in section 2791(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–91(a)) and in section 607(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
- 9 (7) HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—The term
 10 "health insurance coverage" has the meaning given
 11 that term in section 2791(b)(1) of the Public Health
 12 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-91(b)(1)).

(29 U.S.C. 1167(1)).

- (8) MULTIEMPLOYER PLAN.—The term "multiemployer plan" has the meaning given that term in section 3(37) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(37)).
 - (9) POVERTY LINE.—The term "poverty line" has the meaning given that term in section 2110(c)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(c)(5)).
- 21 (10) STATE.—The term "State" has the mean-22 ing given such term for purposes of title XIX of the 23 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).
- 24 (11) STATE OR LOCAL PUBLIC BENEFIT.—The 25 term "State or local public benefit" has the meaning

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1	given that term in section 411(c) of the Personal
2	Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
3	Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1621(c)).
4	(12) Uninsured.—
5	(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "uninsured"
6	means, with respect to an individual, that the
7	individual is not covered under—
8	(i) a group health plan;
9	(ii) health insurance coverage; or
10	(iii) a program under title XVIII
11	XIX, or XXI of the Social Security Act
12	(other than under such title XIX pursuant
13	to section 202).
14	(B) Exclusion.—Such coverage under
15	clause (i) or (ii) shall not include coverage con-
16	sisting solely of coverage of excepted benefits
17	(as defined in section 2791(c) of the Public
1Ω	Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300cc_91(c)))

1	TITLE III—TANF SUPPLE-
2	MENTAL GRANTS FOR POPU-
3	LATION INCREASES
4	SEC. 301. REAUTHORIZATION OF TANF SUPPLEMENTAL
5	GRANTS FOR POPULATION INCREASES FOR
6	FISCAL YEAR 2002.
7	Section 403(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42
8	U.S.C. 603(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the
9	following:
10	"(H) REAUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS FOR
11	FISCAL YEAR 2002.—Notwithstanding any other
12	provision of this paragraph—
13	"(i) any State that was a qualifying
14	State under this paragraph for fiscal year
15	2001 or any prior fiscal year shall be enti-
16	tled to receive from the Secretary for fisca
17	year 2002 a grant in an amount equal to
18	the amount required to be paid to the
19	State under this paragraph for the most
20	recent fiscal year in which the State was a
21	qualifying State;
22	"(ii) subparagraph (G) shall be ap-
23	plied as if '2002' were substituted for
24	'2001'; and

- 1 "(iii) out of any money in the Treas2 ury of the United States not otherwise ap3 propriated, there are appropriated for fis4 cal year 2002 such sums as are necessary
 5 for grants under this subparagraph.".
 6 SEC. 302. FISCAL YEAR 2002 TANF PAYMENTS.
 7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any pay-
- 8 ment under section 403 of the Social Security Act (42
- 9 U.S.C. 603) that would otherwise be sent to a State on
- 10 September 30, 2002, by the Secretary of the Treasury
- 11 shall be sent on October 1, 2002.
- 12 SEC. 303. TANF BONUSES FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE
- 13 STATES.
- 14 (a) Rescission.—Effective upon the date of enact-
- 15 ment of this Act or October 1, 2001, whichever is later,
- 16 \$319,000,000 of the amount appropriated under section
- 17 403(a)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
- 18 603(a)(4)(F)) is rescinded.
- 19 (b) APPROPRIATION.—Effective October 1, 2002, out
- 20 of any money in the Treasury of the United States not
- 21 otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated
- 22 \$319,000,000 for bonus grants under section 403(a)(4)
- 23 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(4)). Amounts
- 24 appropriated under this subsection shall be in addition to

1	amounts appropriated under subparagraph (F) of section
2	403(a)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(4)).
3	TITLE IV—TANF CONTINGENCY
4	FUND
5	SEC. 401. 1-YEAR EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF TANF
6	CONTINGENCY FUND.
7	(a) In General.—Section 403(b) of the Social Secu-
8	rity Act (42 U.S.C. 603(b)(5)) is amended by adding at
9	the end the following:
10	"(9) Special rules for fiscal year 2002.—
11	Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this
12	subsection, with respect to fiscal year 2002, the fol-
13	lowing shall apply:
14	"(A) Deposits into fund.—Out of any
15	money in the Treasury of the United States not
16	otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated
17	for fiscal year 2002 such sums as are necessary
18	for payments under this subsection for that fis-
19	cal year.
20	"(B) Increase in State family assist-
21	ANCE GRANT.—
22	"(i) In general.—For each quarter
23	in which a State is determined to be a
24	needy State, the Secretary shall provide a
25	contingency fund grant equal to 7 percent

1	of the quarterly TANF grant, as defined in
2	clause (ii).
3	"(ii) Definition of Quarterly
4	TANF GRANT.—In this paragraph, the term
5	'quarterly TANF grant' means, with re-
6	spect to a State, ½ of the State family as-
7	sistance grant under subsection (a)(1) for
8	fiscal year 2002.
9	"(C) NEEDY STATE.—
10	"(i) In general.—A State is a needy
11	State for purposes of this paragraph if—
12	"(I) the average rate of total un-
13	employment in the State (seasonally
14	adjusted) for the most recent 3
15	months for which data are available
16	for all States—
17	"(aa) is at least 6.5 percent;
18	or
19	"(bb) has increased by the
20	lesser of 50 percent, or 1.5 per-
21	centage points, over the lesser of
22	the average rate of total unem-
23	ployment in the State (seasonally
24	adjusted) for a comparable 3-

1	month period in fiscal year 2001
2	or fiscal year 2000; and
3	"(II) the amount of the unobli-
4	gated Federal funds to be paid to the
5	State under this part is less than the
6	amount equal to 50 percent of the
7	State family assistance grant under
8	subsection (a)(1) for fiscal year 2001,
9	as measured, at the option of the
10	State—
11	"(aa) as of September 30,
12	2001; or
13	"(bb) for the most recently
14	completed quarter of fiscal year
15	2002, as determined under clause
16	(ii).
17	"(ii) Determination of unobli-
18	GATED FEDERAL FUNDS.—For purposes of
19	clause (i)(bb), the unobligated Federal
20	funds to be paid to the State under this
21	part for the most recently completed quar-
22	ter of fiscal year 2002 are the difference
23	between—

1	"(I) the unobligated Federal
2	funds to be paid to the State at the
3	end of fiscal year 2001; and
4	"(II) the difference between—
5	"(aa) the total Federal ex-
6	penditures and obligations under
7	this part (regardless of the year
8	in which the Federal funds were
9	awarded) for the most recently
10	completed quarter of fiscal year
11	2002 and all previous quarters in
12	fiscal year 2002; and
13	"(bb) the sum of the total of
14	the quarterly TANF grants (as
15	defined in subparagraph (B)(ii))
16	awarded to the State for the
17	most recently completed quarter
18	of fiscal year 2002, and the total
19	of the quarterly supplemental
20	grants (as defined in clause (iii)),
21	if any, made to the State for
22	such most recent quarter.
23	"(iii) Definition of quarterly
24	SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT.—In this para-
25	graph, the term 'quarterly supplemental

- grant' means, with respect to a State, ½

 of the grant made to the State (if any)

 under subsection (a)(3) for fiscal year

 2002.

 "(D) Nonapplication of annual rec
 onciliation requirement.—Paragraph (6)

 shall not apply to payments made under this
- 9 (b) REALIGNMENT OF RELATED MAINTENANCE OF 10 EFFORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 409(a)(10) of the So11 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 609(a)(10)) is amended by 12 striking "100 percent" and inserting "the applicable per13 centage (as defined in paragraph (7)(B)(ii) of this sub14 section)".

subsection for fiscal year 2002.".

15 (c) Not EXTENDED Baseline.—Notwith-IN standing paragraph (2) of section 257(b) the Balanced 16 17 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2) 18 U.S.C. 907(b)), the contingency fund grants made under 19 section 403(b)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 20 603(b)(9)), as added by subsection (a), shall be assumed 21 to expire upon the conclusion of fiscal year 2002 for pur-22 poses of that Act.

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